

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RABAT 02470 051521Z

45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 051500Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8512

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T RABAT 2470

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MO, JO, IR

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO MOROCCO

REF: (A) RABAT 2297, (B) TEHRAN 4375

1. CHIEF MUSLO CALLED ON RMAF CHIEF, COLONEL KABBAJ, EVENING OF MAY 4 TO DISCUSS PROBLEM OF APPARENT CONTINUING CONFUSION REGARDING REPLACEMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE M109A1B HOWITZERS. KABBAJ EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION AT HEARING MATTER WAS NOT FULLY RESOLVED AND INITIALLY INDICATED THE PROBLEM MUST REST IN WASHINGTON. CHIEF MUSLO ASSURED HIM THAT PROBLEM WAS CONFINED TO FACT THAT OUR EMBASSY IN TEHRAN WAS RECEIVING EXPLICIT SIGNALS FROM IRANIANS THAT GOI WISHED PURSUE OPTION A REGARDING REPLACEMENT AGREEMENTS (SEE PARA 1, STATE 55551), WHILE GOM INSISTING OPTION B WAS THE AGREED ON COURSE. KABBAJ THEN PRODUCED A COPY OF A TRANSLATION OF A PURPORTED MESSAGE GOM HAD RECEIVED IN EARLY MARCH FROM GOI, IN WHICH GOI HAD ASKED GOM TO PROVIDE REPLACEMENT ASSURANCES TO IMPLEMENT OPTION B (I.E., GOM TO TAKE TITLE OF REPLACEMENT HOWITZERS AND THEN TRANSFER TO GOI). CHIEF MUSLO SAID HE COULD NOT EXPLAIN THIS APPARENT DISCREPANCY IN IRANIAN POSITIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT GOM SHOULD CONTACT IRANIAN AMBASSADOR IN EFFORT TO RESOLVE QUESTION. CHIEF MUSLO ASSURED KABBAJ THAT USG WAS PREPARED TO RESPOND AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE UNDER U.S.

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LAW ONCE THIS WAS CLARIFIED.

2. COMMENT: FOR REASONS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR TO US, GOM APPEARS HAVE VERY STRONG PREFERENCE FOR OPTION B AS OPPOSED OPTION A. MEANWHILE IT SEEMS THAT GOI TOLD GOM ONE THING IN MARCH AND IS NOW TELLING US THE OPPOSITE IN MAY. PERHAPS AMEMBASSY TEHRAN CAN TAKE UP THE CUDGELS AGAIN WITH GOI. WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM IRANIAN AMBASSADOR HERE, AND BEFORE TAKING ANY INITIATIVE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH HIM OURSELVES, WOULD PREFER TO SEE WHETHER GOM APPROACHES HIM AS CHIEF MUSLO RECOMMENDED.  
ANDERSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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